Int'l Appl. No.: PCT/US2004/020,584

Preliminary Amendment dated December 22, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 15, line 7, as

follows:

A modified form of the invention may employ a linking structure comprising an extendable/retractable fluid rod/cylinder assembly to raise or lower the spider which while the elevator remains stationary. In such a modification, the rod/cylinder assemblies are carried by the elevator and are attached to the spider when actuated to retract, the assemblies raise the open spider above the coupling of the just added pipe section to permit the control lines to be clamped to the pipe. Extension of the rod/cylinder assembly places the spider back on the floor where it may be released from the two assemblies, permitting the two assemblies to retract to permit lowering of the attached pipe string. The spider is thereafter closed on the pipe to support the string and the next pipe section is added. The described process is repeated as pipe is added to the string. In similar fashion, rod/cylinder assemblies mounted on the rig floor may act as the linking structures to raise and lower the spider as required to provide access below the spider for clamping control lines.

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